

Message Text

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APPROVED BY EA - MR. HUMMEL

EA/J - MR. SHERMAN

S/S - MR. BRIDGES

S - HAL COLLUMS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 228424 TOSEC 270163

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, JA

SUBJECT: BRIEFING MEMORANDUM - CABINET CHANGE IN JAPAN
TO THE SECRETARY FROM EA - HUMMEL

1. PRIME MINISTER MIKI ANNOUNCED ON SEPTEMBER 15 A CABINET RESHUFFLE AS PART OF AN INTERIM POLITICAL COMPROMISE TO PERMIT THE CONVOCAION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY DIET SESSION. ZENTARO KOSAKA WAS NAMED AS THE NEW MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, REPLACING KIICHI MIYAZAWA. URBANE AND EXPERIENCED IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, KOSAKA SERVED AS FOREIGN MINISTER FROM 1960-62. HE SPEAKS ENGLISH REASONABLY WELL. YOU MET HIM WHEN YOU TRAVELED TO TOKYO IN JUNE, 1972 AS ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT. WE EXPECT NO BASIC CHANGES IN JAPANESE FOREIGN POLICY AS A RESULT OF THIS SHIFT. KOSAKA HAS BEEN A STAUNCH SUPPORTER OF STRONG JAPANESE - AMERICAN TIES. HE HAS ALSO BEEN A PRIME ADVOCATE WITHIN THE LDP FOR CLOSER RELATIONS WITH THE PRC.

2. DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA AND FINANCE MINISTER OHIRA RETAIN THEIR PORTFOLIOS. YASUHIRO NAKASONE, A MAJOR FACTIONAL SUPPORTER OF MIKI, WAS REPLACED AS LDP SECRETARY
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GENERAL BY A MEMBER OF THE OHIRA FACTION.

3. THIS CABINET MAY SERVE ONLY BRIEFLY. AS PART OF THE COMPROMISE SCENARIO FOR RESOLVING THE LDP LEADERSHIP QUESTION A PARTY CONVENTION IS TO TAKE PLACE IN OCTOBER; IT IS WIDELY EXPECTED THAT MIKI WILL BE REPLACED AS PARTY PRESIDENT AT THAT TIME WHICH WOULD LEAD TO THE FORMATION OF A CARETAKER CABINET, DIET DISSOLUTION AND GENERAL ELECTIONS.

4. ALTHOUGH IT HAS NOT BEEN CONFIRMED, WE ASSUME THAT KOSAKA WILL REPRESENT JAPAN AT THE UNGA, AND THAT THE GOJ WILL RENEW ON HIS BEHALF ITS REQUEST FOR A BILATERAL WITH YOU.

5. CLEARED BY S -HAL COLLUMS

6. DRAFTED BY EA/J: SECTON ROBINSON

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